

11
encl.

in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream DSL modems are in a packet-switched network.

12

8. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a cell-switched network.

12. (Amended) A broadband communication system of the type utilizing xDSL packet-based technologies, the system comprising:

13

- a central office;

- an upstream xDSL modem in communication with the central office;

- a twisted pair connected to the upstream xDSL modem;

- a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair;

- a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

15. (Amended) A broadband communication method for xDSL packet-based applications, the method comprising:

- broadcasting from a point, over a twisted pair, with an upstream xDSL modem;

- receiving at a plurality of points with a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems providing packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a packet-switched network.

15

18. (Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are in a cell-switched network.
